BULLETIN
of
The Maritime Library Association

Vol. IX, No. 4 June, 1945

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Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Replacing the President's letter is a message from Mrs. Mary Kinley Ingraham, senior and much respected Maritime librarian, speaking as Honorary President of the Maritime Library Association.

THE CASE OF MISS NORA BATESON

On April 16, while glancing through the day's issue of The Halifax Chronicle, I was startled by the content of a paragraph reporting an interview with Premier MacMillan on the subject of regional libraries in Nova Scotia. An act for the establishment of such libraries, the Premier told the reporters, had been passed by the Nova Scotia Legislature in 1938, by which it was agreed that the libraries be instituted, that the Province should pay one half of their cost, and the municipalities the other half. The provincial government had paid its share. Since 1938 Miss Nora Bateson, as Director of Regional Libraries and Secretary to the Regional Libraries Commission, had devoted her whole time, with the exception of one year during which she was in Jamaica on leave of absence, to the work of establishing these libraries, but as yet there was not one in the Province. The paragraph was concluded thus: "Evidently the Province has done its work in this connection, but has not received the cooperation of the municipalities, and as already stated Miss Bateson has not succeeded in her efforts in any part of the Province."

Now this newspaper story, though dismaying, did not seem alarming; indeed, I quoted from it in a chronicle of news I was contributing to the magazine Culture, adding my own brief note that we might expect Miss Bateson, now that the war was over, would surely find ways and means to carry on her important work. Nothing, perhaps, was seriously wrong; the statement in the conclusion of the paragraph was so abrupt that it might be called rude, but reporters are not the flower of courtesy, though we must not think that of our Premier.

Early in May, I learned from two letters received in one day that Miss Bateson had been dismissed at one month's notice from her important and exacting post in the service of the Nova Scotia Government. The reason given was that she had proved herself unable for the work she was engaged to do.

Naturally, all our leaders in library work and the greater number of those interested in the cultural development of the Province were appalled. They believed in Miss Bateson and with reason. An Honors graduate of the University of Manchester, a Master in Arts of McGill, and a graduate of the Pratt Library School, she had thorough educational and professional preparation for her work. She had been a teacher in McGill Library School. She had notable success in establishing regional libraries, first in the Fraser River Valley and later in Prince Edward Island. She had held a responsible position in the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore.

With this wealth of education, training, and experience Nora Bateson began work in Nova Scotia in 1938. Her task was to recommend to a conservative people, largely rural, a system of libraries that of necessity would make hard demands on their time, their attention, their money. The next year there broke out the most frightful war this world has ever known; the cream of Nova Scotian youth, male and female, were soon enlisted in the services; the folk at home were carrying well nigh intolerable burdens of taxation, toil, trouble. If an angel from heaven had come to talk regional libraries to them during these years he must have had a surly response. Yet Miss Bateson went bravely among the harassed folk to prepare the difficult ways. She did not establish regional libraries at this time; nobody could have done that, but she surely did arouse the people's interest. Then she and her staff, under the auspices of the Educational Service of the Canadian Legion and with the consent of the Regional Libraries Commission, went to work and gave a library service to the men in training throughout the area of the Atlantic Command. Approximately 30,000 books were selected, ordered, and prepared for circulation in camps and forts. At the head of this service stood Miss Nora Bateson.

Then the tension snapped; the war in Europe was over; the project for regional libraries might go forward. Miss Bateson knew the ground as no one else did, and she had prepared the way. We hoped she would immediately step out to gather the harvest of which she had sown the seed. And she was dismissed at a month's notice!

There was a storm of protest. Letters of remonstrance from various organisations, including the Maritime Library Association, were sent to the Premier, but the deed was done. Even if the Government should rescind its resolution, it is unlikely that Miss Bateson would consider reappointment. At our Annual Meetings we shall miss her vivid presence and her strong counsel. Wherever she goes the librarians of the Maritime Provinces will follow her in spirit, wishing her every good and the success that should have crowned her efforts here, and doubtless would have done so had the Government been less precipitate.

Mary Kinley Ingraham

THE EXECUTIVE'S VIEWPOINT

Miss Bateson's dismissal has shocked every librarian and every person in Nova Scotia interested in the welfare of the Province. It is for this reason that the M.L.A. has compiled the brief which

accompanies this issue of the Bulletin. Also enclosed is our letter to the Premier, asking him to reconsider his action. In his reply to this letter the Premier gives as the reason for the governmental action "... she [Miss Bateson] was unable to do the work she was employed to do. This does not reflect on her ability as a librarian, but apparently for some unknown reason, she is not able to sell her ideas to the people of Nova Scotia, and as you are aware, she has not been able to establish a single library..."

In the opinion of the Executive of the M.L.A., Miss Bateson has been maligned. Three Municipal Councils in Nova Scotia have already voted in favour of regional libraries; one as late as the spring of 1944. Does this show inability to sell her ideas in this province? No one who has heard Miss Bateson speak doubts her ability "to sell her ideas to the people of Nova Scotia". Furthermore, government policy was against taking on further financial commitments during war. Miss Bateson established a regional system of libraries in Prince Edward Island which is regarded as a model for all Canada; she established a system of regional libraries for Service personnel in the Atlantic Command Area. To dismiss this outstanding librarian at this time, when largely through her efforts there is greater interest in regional libraries than ever before, is to do an injustice not only to the library profession but to the Province of Nova Scotia.

NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Sister Francis de Sales, Librarian of Mount Saint Vincent College, Halifax, reports; "The year just ended has been a busy one. The increased enrollment taxed our seating capacity and the higher scholastic level of the student body and the research-minded professors kept the reference librarian and the desk assistant busy.

For some years now all incoming students, whatever their status, have been obliged to take a course in Library Methods, for one period a week during the first semester. The Classification system, the card cabinet, the vertical file, are all mysteries to many and this limits their chance of independent study. The course is of interest to most students and the reference problems and practical work are taken seriously. The later improved use of library facilities shows that they have profited by the course; but the professor in charge has asked that more time be given to it next year.

For several years now the book and periodical collection has been increasing at the rate of at least a thousand volumes a year. In 1943-44, 1182 volumes were added; 214 books were presented to the library. Of the 104 periodicals received, 16 are gifts. Our new President, Sister M. Rosaria, has made substantial additions to the Science section; and the Canadian Social Research Council has given $100 worth of valuable books as a scholarship gift to the Sociology Department. Donations of money totalled $490.33.

In the School of Library Science six students were enrolled and four of them received their B.S. in L.S. at the June Convocation.

The book collection of the Library School has been substantially increased. It now has all the A.L.A. publications, most of H.W. Wilson's, and those of the University of Chicago Library School. The largest number of volumes was added to the model children's collection and the most valuable to the section on printers and printing. We were fortunate in securing an addition to the Incunabula - The Sermons of St. Gregory, published in Strasbourg, in 1496, in good condition, in the original binding; also a fine example of fore-edged painting on a beautiful morocco-bound volume from the library of Lady Victoria Sackville-West.

The Lending Library for Rockingham is open five days a week and an extra period on two of these days had to be added this year to take care of the large number of grade and high school children who are regular borrowers. The circulation figures have risen steadily, partly because of the improved reading habits of the villagers, and also, because of the number of transient Service men and their wives in Rockingham who found the library, as they said, a "God-send". Fiction has continued to be the most popular reading of the adults; but it is the more serious fiction. Mysteries remain the staple fare of most men. Biography, especially the folksy, gossipy type, is in demand; but "Nothing on the war, please!"

"The Friends of the Library" have continued to show their interest. Plans for the annual bridge will be made at this month's meeting. In April, after several meetings devoted to the subject of health insurance, two groups were formed and enrolled in the Maritime Hospital Service Association - Plan for Hospital Care. During the coming winter the subject of a Credit Union for Rockingham is to be discussed.

The College hopes soon to implement its much needed, long dreamed of plans for expansion. There is to be a separate library building, one floor of which will be occupied by the School of Library Science. When the blue prints are approved and the green light given, I shall be eager to tell you all about it."

The Librarian of Acadia University, Mr. M.P. Boone, sends notes on the University Library:

"Mrs. Jessie Richards was appointed Assistant Librarian in September, 1944. Miss Lillian Swim and Miss Amy Prescott continued their work on the library staff, Miss Swim as Assistant Librarian and Miss Prescott as Librarian of the Morse Library.

1512 books and periodicals were accessioned during the year, many of these were given by friends of the University. 1225 volumes were catalogued; one of the greatest needs at the present is a full-time cataloguer to keep the cataloguing of the current accessions to the Library up-to-date. The Library is receiving through subscription or gift over 300 periodicals. The total circulation of books and periodicals from the main Library was 14,477.

Nine students registered for the course in Library Science I. Library Science 2 will be offered in the Academic year 1945-46.

An outstanding addition to the library's equipment was the installation of lights in the stacks. The lighting in the reading rooms of the Library is still far from adequate for continuous study.

With the cooperation of the Faculty of Education of the University, a questionnaire, prepared by the Library, was sent by one of the members of a class in Education to all the larger high schools in Nova Scotia. The answers to this questionnaire have furnished much interesting material on school libraries in Nova Scotia."

Sister Regina Clare, Librarian of St. Francis Xavier University Library writes as follows:

"The Univeristy Library has completed another very busy year. This was owing particularly to our greatly increased student body. Statistics were kept for books and periodicals borrowed over a period of time by the students. It was not possible to do this for books and periodicals used the library itself.

Much interest was shown by the students in the field of public speaking, and the library purchased several volumes for this section. Since students are permitted to borrow books over the holidays, many books from this section were requested. Several purchases were also made for the Radio Literature Section. These supplemented the Radio Work Shop course given at the University this year.

First year students were given a course by the English Department in the use of Reference books. To supplement this instruction classes were also held in the library, where students were shown the practical use of these Reference tools.

Many new books were purchased and assigned to the teaching departments concerned. The fourteenth edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica was added to the Reference Section. Vocational guidance charts, pamphlets, and pictorial charts of Canadian industries, trade, etc were displayed from time to time during the year. In addition, a special information file was made available to the students interested in vocational guidance and occupations.

Over seventy subscriptions to periodicals were made this year. Others in addition were contributed. It was very gratifying to see the use to which these periodicals were put by the students, in gaining knowledge of current events, and as aids to public speaking, debates, essays, etc. Recognizing the part it can play in helping students to acquire a taste for good reading, thus promoting a library consciousness among the people in their communities, the University Library tries to keep an attractive atmosphere at all times, and make it not a place to be avoided, but rather to be sought."

MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE. Due to staff shortages at the Free Public Library and the housing difficulty, it will not be possible to hold the 1945 Conference at Saint John, as suggested last year. The Librarians of Halifax have invited the Association to meet in that city and set Sept. 20 and 21 as tentative dates; or Sept. 25 and 26 might be selected if the members prefer not to have to travel at the weekend. Please let Miss Marion Gilroy know your choice in the matter.

THE CANADIAN LIBRARY COUNCIL

Members of the Maritime Library Association have had visible evidence of the existence of the Council in the last few months. They have been receiving the bi-monthly bulletins with news of Canadian libraries, they have the Council's brief, "Library Service for Canada" and the pamphlet "Rural Canada needs libraries."

The Council held its annual meeting in Ottawa, April 26-28. One of the most important questions under discussion was the formation of a Canadian Library Association. The Council has always regarded itself as merely preparing the way for a national association really representative of the librarians of the Dominion and supported financially, at least to some extent, by them. A committee was appointed at this meeting to prepare within the next twelve months concrete proposals concerning the constitution and organization of such a national association. These proposals will then be submitted to the provincial library associations for their consideration.

Mr. Ralph A. Ulveling, President-Elect of the A.L.A. met with the Council on April 27th. The purpose of his visit was to explore the possibilities for the closest cooperation between the A.L.A. and the Canadian Library Council. The desirability of such cooperation is recognized by everyone. The question is what should be the exact relationship between the two. 'Affiliation' with the A.L.A. seemed too indefinite ; to make the C.L.C. a 'division' of the A.L.A. is hardly acceptable to our national sentiment. It seems that some amendment to the constitution of the A.L.A. might be made which would permit of Canadian and other national library associations being 'federated' with the A.L.A. Canadian librarians realize that membership in a Canadian library organization will not supersede membership in the A.L.A. Canada has specific problems but there are many matters of professional interest common to all North American librarians.

You may remember that in the Council's brief "Library Service for Canada" a Library Resources Board was proposed. It is hoped that such a Board will act as a liason body between the organized librarians of Canada and the Dominion Government. Preliminary to any action they would need up-to-date information on all the Provinces. The Council feels that the Provincial Library Associations could undertake surveys for their Provinces and the Council members could be responsible for their respective areas.

The Council saw the film "Library on Wheels " at the Film Board. It is based on the Frazer Valley Library and will be very useful in creating interest in those parts of Canada where the book-truck can be used.

Here I can only touch the more important matters which came up for discussion. Canada's Number One library problem - how to get books to rural communities and small towns - was a constantly recurring topic. Definite action by the Dominion Government, say through a Library Resources Board, and the establishment of Provincial Library Boards or Commissions are necessary first steps. Until libraries - necessary channels for the circulation of information and ideas - are more widely spread in Canada, we shall not have an informed people.

Nora Bateson

CANADIAN ADULT EDUCATION CONFERENCE
by Marion Gilroy

A most ambitious and successful conference, sponsored by the Canadian Association for Adult Education, was held at Winnipeg May 28 - 31. It was called for the purpose of co-ordinating the work of the three national adult educational agencies, National Film Board, National Farm Radio Forum and Citizens' Forum. The Wartime Information Board was represented as well. There should have been many more librarians at the Conference.

The program of the Conference ranged from reports to panel discussion, from demonstrations of the use of films and film strips in adult education to a possible new radio technique for Citizens' Forum. A great deal of work was accomplished when meetings broke up into small workable discussion groups. The Report of the Conference will be available before long. Everyone interested should try to get a copy from the Canadian Association for Adult Education, 198 College St. Toronto.

L.P. FISHER PUBLIC LIBRARY, WOODSTOCK, N.B.

Miss Georgia E. Starrett, Librarian, writes: "During the last year the library has served an increasing number or citizens of the town. In addition, a more extensive use was made of books in the Reference room department, - especially by pupils of the town.

To meet these demands, the "Friends of the Library" sponsored a drive for funds, and money raised is being spent principally for new reference books and other books useful for junior work. While it is a great temptation to use available funds for current, and popular books, this library has always stressed its reference work.

Recently, a notable gift of more than four hundred books has been given to the library. These books are from the library of a resident of the town, and are a worthwhile collection of fiction, literature, travel, biography and history.

The Library Book Club has added new and popular books, which, later, will go on the shelves for general circulation.

The historical collection has always been one of the important interests in this library, and a notice in the local paper asking citizens, - who wished to deposit historical records in a safe place,- to deposit them in the library, has had interesting results."

SAINT JOHN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Miss Hope Jarvis, formerly Assistant to Miss E.M.A. Vaughan, is now with The Carnegie Library, Windsor, Ont. Miss Frances Machum, who supplied in her place, is giving up library work, and Miss Frances Tilley, Mt. Allison University Library, has been appointed Assistant Librarian.